



United States  
Department  
of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Tally Lake  
Ranger District

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**File Code:** 1950

**Date:** January 10, 2018

Greetings,

The Environmental Assessment for the **Taylor Hellroaring Project** has been completed and is available for public review and comment. The project area is located on the Tally Lake Ranger District northwest of Whitefish Montana. You are receiving this letter because you have provided comment on this project previously or have expressed an interest in the project. The project addresses multiple resource objectives:

- Increase forest resilience to insect infestation and disease infection and wildland fire disturbances while maintaining a natural-appearing forested setting viewed from the surrounding area.
- Reduce the risk and severity of large scale stand-replacing fires to protect values at risk within the Wildland Urban Interface, Whitefish Mountain Resort (WMR) and electronic sites along the Whitefish Divide.
- Restore rust-resistant whitebark and western white pine.
- Provide a range of trail experiences for hikers, mountain bikers and horse riders to connect the local community with the Flathead National Forest. Opportunities will vary from highly developed accessible trails near trailheads and roads to more primitive and challenging trails in more remote backcountry.
- Maintain and improve terrestrial wildlife species habitat and security.

The interdisciplinary team used information gathered during their field review and public comments received to develop two action alternatives and the no action alternative. The environmental assessment describes these alternatives and analyzes the potential effects of each.

Alternative 1 is the no-action alternative which describes the existing condition of the project area and serves as a comparison for the analysis of effects of the action alternatives.

Alternative 2 is the proposed action and is slightly different than the proposal released to the public in March 2017. This alternative meets the purpose and need for action. Alternative 2 proposes the following management activities:

- Approximately 943 acres of commercial harvest activities. Approximately 0.5 mile of temporary road would be constructed and rehabilitated to facilitate harvest activities and nearly 4 miles of historic road template and new construction would be developed for harvest activities and then placed into intermittent stored service following project completion.
- Prescribed burning and fuel reduction on approximately 861 acres
- Approximately forty miles of trail construction.
- Trailhead development and road widening for parking for use of proposed trails.

Alternative 3 was designed to address issues concerning proposed trail development. Commenters were concerned about trails located close to private property, the density of trails and potential impacts of some trails to wildlife-human encounters, wildlife and aquatic habitat. Alternative 3 is the same as Alternative 2 except 26 miles of trails are proposed, 14 less miles than Alternative 2.

Your comments will help us to determine if additional analysis is necessary and what actions should be considered in a Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, which are expected to be completed in winter of 2017/2018. The Responsible Official for this project is Forest Supervisor, Chip Weber.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 218.25, comments on this proposed project will be accepted for 30 days beginning on the first day after the date of publication of the legal notice in the Daily Inter Lake newspaper. If the comment period ends on a

Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the responsible official will be eligible to file an objection. Other eligibility requirements are defined by 36 CFR 218.25 (a) (3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25 (a) (4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted.

Please address your comments to Project Leader Deb Bond at the above address or fax number. To submit comments electronically, please send to: [comments-northern-flathead-tally-lake@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-northern-flathead-tally-lake@fs.fed.us). Acceptable formats include MS Word, Word Perfect, RTF, or PDF. Oral comments can be provided at the Tally Lake Ranger Station during normal business hours via telephone or in person. Normal business hours are 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday, excluding holidays. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names, addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers of those commenting, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. This comment period provides those interested in or affected by this proposal an opportunity to make their concerns known prior to a decision being made by the Responsible Official.

Because of the enormous amount of research regarding forestry practices and methods, if you cite literature in your comments please provide us with a complete bibliography or a copy of the referenced materials if they are not commonly available.

The Environmental Assessment and legal notice is available on-line at: [www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50518](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50518). Documents are also available for review at the Tally Lake Ranger Station, 650 Wolfpack Way, Kalispell, MT. Additional information can be obtained from Project Leader, Deb Bond, at the above address, by calling 406-758-5318, or emailing [dbond01@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbond01@fs.fed.us).

I appreciate your interest in this project, and I thank you for your help with developing our project. To obtain additional information about this project, please contact me (406) 758-3527, or Deb Bond at (406) 758-5318.

Sincerely,



LISA A. TIMCHAK  
District Ranger



